387
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The hardships in the cattle breeding industry are causing a shortage of manure with which the output of fertiliser factories, although increasing, cannot catch up. Hungarian peasants now use an estimated 30,000 metric tons of granulated superphosphate yearly along with 250,000 tons of peat mixed with human and animal excrement.

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Animal husbandry before the war constituted about half the income of the rural areas. The ravage of the war inflicted terrible losses to Hungarian livestock and the country may not recover its prewar status even by 1956 in spite of the ambitious plans which call for surpassing it (see chart at the end of this Subparagraph). The primary problem of animal husbandry is the lack of fodder which is thus the chief cause of the lack of meat on the markets and the severe measures by which the government tries to regulate animal husbandry and slaughtering in the villages.

The center of cattle raising is the Hungarian West. Horses are bred mostly on the Great Plains and the center of hog fattening is in the counties Csanád, Csongrád and Békés.

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Fishing is one of the most ancient primitive professions of the Magyars. Today, fishery uses modern methods, and numerous hatcheries and

fish ponds have been built. In 1931, Hungary exported over three million 226
pengö worth of fish to Western Europe. The most common fish caught are carp, sheatfish and barbel. The Balaton provides delicious sturgeon and pike perch.

The post war governments have made efforts to improve the productivity 242
of Magyar soil through mechanisation, increase in fertiliser production, introduction of modern methods in handling manure, seed selection, rejuvenation of the breeding stock, increase of pasture areas, irrigation, flood-control, reforestation, and use of the latest methods of agro-biology and agro-chemistry. These aims were, however, secondary to the tremendous investments in industry, especially heavy industry. The drouth of the early fifties and the resistance of the peasants fighting collectivization added to the insufficiency of the above efforts and the agricultural situation became stagnant, then declined. The "new course" policy of Premier Nagy brought a fresh approach in 1953. Nagy invested 24 per cent of the total [474]
investments on the State's budget into agriculture in 1954, brought forced collectivization to a halt, even permitted the peasants to leave the kolkhozes, and favored consumer goods. He also had more liberal policies in the villages; e.g. he permitted the reorganization of farmers' clubs (gazdakör).